

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated May 17, 2006, claims 7 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 8 and 17 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-10, 12-24, 27 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,927,265 to Hume. Claims 3, 11, 28 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hume. It was stated that claims 5, 25, 26 and 29-33 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. However, these claims were noted to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesy of providing an interview to applicant's attorney on August 2, 2006. During the interview, proposed amendments to the independent claims were discussed, along with new independent claim 36 to be included in the next response. Agreement was reached as to the patentability of these claims. More particularly, these claims patentably define over the applied Hume reference, as well as the remainder of the cited art.

As to the indefiniteness rejections of claims 7, 8, 17 and 23, suitable amendments have been made to claims 7, 8 and 17 to moot the indefiniteness rejections raised thereagainst. As to claim 23, it was discussed during the interview that the recitation of the blocking wall in claim 23 is not indefinite as claim 23 now also recites a second end wall secured to the first and second side walls. This, then, locates the blocking wall as being connected to the first side wall and a first side edge of the ramp. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the indefiniteness rejection raised against claim 23 is also moot.

As to independent claim 1, this claim has been amended to add the subject matter of claim 5 thereto. As noted in paragraph 9 of the Office Action, the subject matter of claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. To that end, applicant has added the subject matter of claim 5 to claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is now in condition for allowance, as was recognized during the interview.

Dependent claims 2-4 and 6-9 further patentably define the detailed subject matter of their parent claim or each other. Therefore, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 10 was amended to now recite a housing and coin separating member, a coin sorting member, a coin slide and a tray mounted to the housing, the tray including a plurality of walls, wherein the plurality of walls includes a floor and a ramp which extends along a length of the floor and is oriented at an acute angle in relation to the floor. As agreed during the interview, this claim patentably defines not only over Hume, but also the remainder of the cited art.

Dependent claims 11 - 17 which further patentably define the detailed subject matter of their parent claim, or each other, are also in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 18 has been amended to recite a coin bank comprising a coin sorting assembly and a metering tray comprising a plurality of walls, wherein the plurality of walls comprises first and second side walls, a floor and a ramp, wherein the floor and the ramp are located between the first and second side walls and wherein the ramp is disposed at an acute angle in relation to the floor. As agreed during the interview, this claim patentably defines over, not only Hume, but the remainder of the cited art.

Independent claim 23 has been amended to recite a coin bank comprising a coin sorting assembly and a metering tray, the metering tray comprising first and second side walls, a first end wall, a floor, a ramp, a blocking wall and a second end wall. The second end wall is secured to the first and second side walls. As agreed during the interview, claim 23 patentably defines over Hume. It also patentably defines over the remainder of the cited art.

Dependent claims 24-28 and 30-35 merely further patentably define the detailed subject matter of their parent claim or each other. As such, these claims also are in condition for allowance over the art of record.

Applicant takes this opportunity to add new independent claim 36. This claim recites a coin bank comprising a separating wheel, a wheel housing and a coin feeding construction for regulating the number of associated coins delivered to the separating wheel. The coin feeding construction comprises a base wall, a first side wall, a second

side wall spaced from the first side wall, a first end wall connected to the first and second side walls and a blocking wall connected to one of the first and second side walls and spaced from another of the first and second side walls to define an exit opening in the coin feeding construction. As agreed during the interview, claim 36 patentably defines over Hume, as well as the remainder of the cited art.

Dependent claims 20-22 have been amended to now make them dependent from claim 36. As such, these claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance over the art of record.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance over the art of record. Such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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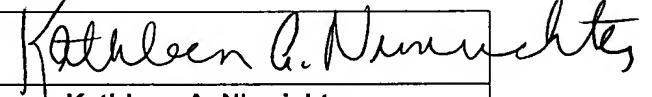
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Date

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I certify that this Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail, addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

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Date: September 27, 2006	Printed Name: Kathleen A. Nimrichter

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